



Telecom Decision CRTC 2008-16

Ottawa, 27 February 2008

Bell Aliant Regional Communications, Limited Partnership – Application for forbearance from the regulation of residential local exchange services

Reference: 8640-B54-200718570

In this Decision, the Commission approves Bell Aliant Regional Communications, Limited Partnership's request for forbearance from the regulation of residential local exchange services in seven exchanges in Quebec.

Introduction

1. The Commission received an application by Bell Aliant Regional Communications, Limited Partnership (Bell Aliant), dated 17 December 2007, in which the company requested forbearance from the regulation of residential local exchange services¹ in the exchanges of La Pocatière, Rivière-du-Loup, Saint-Alexandre, Saint-Pacôme, Saint-Pascal, Saint-Philippe-de-Néri, and Victoriaville, Quebec.
2. The Commission received submissions and/or data regarding Bell Aliant's application from Rogers Communications Inc. and Videotron Ltd. (Videotron). The record of this proceeding closed with reply comments from Bell Aliant dated 10 January 2008. The public record of this proceeding is available on the Commission's website at www.crtc.gc.ca under "Public Proceedings."
3. The Commission has assessed Bell Aliant's application based on the local forbearance test set out in Telecom Decision 2006-15, as amended by the Governor in Council's *Order Varying Telecom Decision CRTC 2006-15*, P.C. 2007-532, 4 April 2007 (modified Telecom Decision 2006-15), by examining the following:
 - a) Product market
 - b) Competitor presence test
 - c) Competitor quality of service (Q of S) results
 - d) Communications plan

Commission's analysis and determinations

a) Product market

4. The Commission received no comments with respect to Bell Aliant's proposed list of residential local exchange services.

¹ In this Decision, "residential local exchange services" refers to local exchange services used by residential customers to access the public switched telephone network and any associated service charges, features, and ancillary services.

5. The Commission notes that Bell Aliant is seeking forbearance for 20 tariffed residential local exchange services, 19 of which were included in the list of services set out in Telecom Decision 2005-35. The Commission notes that the remaining service, Bell Digital Voice (General Tariff item 7031), was not included in Telecom Decision 2005-35. However, in Telecom Decision 2007-65, the Commission considered this service to be appropriate for forbearance.
6. Accordingly, the Commission considers the 20 services proposed by Bell Aliant for forbearance to be appropriate. The list of approved services is set out in the Appendix to this Decision.

b) Competitor presence test

7. The Commission notes that for all seven exchanges identified in Bell Aliant's application, information provided by parties confirms that there are, in addition to Bell Aliant, at least two independent, facilities-based telecommunications service providers, including providers of mobile wireless services.² Each of these service providers offers local exchange services in the market and is capable of serving at least 75 percent of the number of residential local exchange service lines that Bell Aliant is capable of serving, and at least one, in addition to Bell Aliant, is a facilities-based, fixed-line telecommunications service provider.
8. Accordingly, the Commission determines that each of the seven exchanges identified in Bell Aliant's application meets the competitor presence test.

c) Competitor Q of S results

9. The Commission notes that Bell Aliant submitted competitor Q of S results for the period of May to October 2007.
10. The Commission has reviewed Bell Aliant's competitor Q of S results and finds that the company has demonstrated that during this six-month period it
 - i) met, on average, the Q of S standard for each indicator set out in Appendix B of modified Telecom Decision 2006-15, as defined in Telecom Decision 2005-20, with respect to the services provided to competitors in its territory; and
 - ii) did not consistently provide any of those competitors with services that were below those Q of S standards.
11. Accordingly, the Commission determines that Bell Aliant's competitor Q of S results meet the competitor Q of S criterion.

d) Communications plan

12. The Commission has reviewed Bell Aliant's draft communications plan and is satisfied that it generally meets the information requirements set out in modified Telecom Decision 2006-15. However, the Commission considers that the company should revise the communications plan to list itself as the first point of contact for its local service customers' questions regarding local forbearance.

² These competitors are Rogers Wireless Inc. and Videotron.

13. The Commission **approves** the proposed communications plan with the revision noted above and directs Bell Aliant to provide the resulting communications materials to its customers in both official languages where appropriate.

Conclusion

14. The Commission determines that Bell Aliant's application regarding the exchanges of La Pocatière, Rivière-du-Loup, Saint-Alexandre, Saint-Pacôme, Saint-Pascal, Saint-Philippe-de-Néri, and Victoriaville meets all the local forbearance criteria set out in modified Telecom Decision 2006-15.
15. Pursuant to subsection 34(1) of the *Telecommunications Act* (the Act), the Commission finds as a question of fact that a determination to forbear, to the extent specified in modified Telecom Decision 2006-15, from the regulation of residential local exchange services listed in the Appendix and future services that fall within the definition of local exchange services set out in Telecom Public Notice 2005-2 as they pertain to residential customers only, in the exchanges of La Pocatière, Rivière-du-Loup, Saint-Alexandre, Saint-Pacôme, Saint-Pascal, Saint-Philippe-de-Néri, and Victoriaville, would be consistent with the Canadian telecommunications policy objectives set out in section 7 of the Act.
16. Pursuant to subsection 34(2) of the Act, the Commission finds as a question of fact that these residential local exchange services are subject to a level of competition in these exchanges sufficient to protect the interests of users of these services.
17. Pursuant to subsection 34(3) of the Act, the Commission finds as a question of fact that to forbear, to the extent specified in modified Telecom Decision 2006-15, from regulating these residential local exchange services in these exchanges would be unlikely to impair unduly the continuance of a competitive market for these services.
18. In light of the above, the Commission **approves** Bell Aliant's application for forbearance from the regulation of the local exchange services listed in the Appendix and future services that fall within the definition of local exchange services set out in Telecom Public Notice 2005-2, as they pertain to residential customers only, in the exchanges of La Pocatière, Rivière-du-Loup, Saint-Alexandre, Saint-Pacôme, Saint-Pascal, Saint-Philippe-de-Néri, and Victoriaville, subject to the powers and duties that the Commission has retained as set out in modified Telecom Decision 2006-15. This determination takes effect as of the date of this Decision. The Commission directs Bell Aliant to file for Commission approval revised tariff pages within 30 days.

Secretary General

Related documents

- *Bell Canada – Applications for forbearance from the regulation of residential local exchange services*, Telecom Decision CRTC 2007-65, 3 August 2007
- *Forbearance from the regulation of retail local exchange services*, Telecom Decision CRTC 2006-15, 6 April 2006, as amended by the Governor in Council's *Order Varying Telecom Decision CRTC 2006-15*, P.C. 2007-532, 4 April 2007
- *List of services within the scope of the proceeding on forbearance from the regulation of local exchange services*, Telecom Decision CRTC 2005-35, 15 June 2005, as amended by Telecom Decision CRTC 2005-35-1, 14 July 2005
- *Forbearance from regulation of local exchange services*, Telecom Public Notice CRTC 2005-2, 28 April 2005
- *Finalization of quality of service rate rebate plan for competitors*, Telecom Decision CRTC 2005-20, 31 March 2005

This document is available in alternative format upon request, and may also be examined in PDF format or in HTML at the following Internet site: <http://www.crtc.gc.ca>

**Local exchange services eligible for forbearance from regulation in this Decision
(for residential customers only)**

Tariff	Item	List of services
21560	29	Telephone Set Loss Charge
21560	70	Rate Schedules for Primary Exchange (Local) Service
21560	72	Reference of Calls
21560	73	Telephone Number Services
21560	82	Toll Restriction
21560	86	Call Display Blocking
21560	220	Extra Listings
21560	1060	Service on Stationary Boats, Ships, Trailers and Trains
21560	1130	Suspension of Service
21560	2025	Integrated Voice Messaging Service
21560	2030	Universal Messaging
21560	2150	Push-Button Dialing
21560	2165	Calling Features
21560	2180	PrimeLine Executive
21560	2185	Single Number Reach
21560	2200	Call Blocking Service
21560	2210	SimplyOne Service
21560	2300	Telephone Station Equipment
21560	4699	Internet Call Display Service
21560	7031	Bell Digital Voice